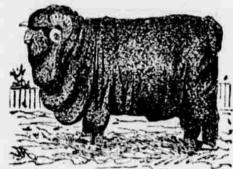
Merino Sheep.

American Merino sheep are descended from the Spanist. Merinos imported into this country many years ago. But our climate and soil, not to say the bounding air of a free country, have so changed them that they are now to all intents and purposes a distinct family, just as the American trotting horse is a distinct brood

The American Merino is the basis of the sheep and wool interest in the United States. For mutton it is not so good, according to some authorities, as the Southdown, but for wool it is absolutely indispensable. No other sheep can take its place for this purpose. Breeding has steadily improved it, and continues to do so.

The ram in the picture in the picture is wool down to his hoofs. No other sheep produces such a weight of fleece, Crozier mentions that he has seen unwashed Merino fleeces that weighed thirty-four pounds. There is so much oil in them that they sometimes clean down to a fourth of their unwashed weight. Even then, however, their fleeces are much heavier than those of ordin-



AMERICAN MERINO RAM.

The illustration shows "Captain Jack," a sheep that has won many prizes. Rams of this blood have been sold as high as \$10,000. They are the fine-wooled sheep of the country. They are easily kept, and are well fitted for hilly and mountainous regions, and are strong and hardy. They are the favorite

breed of the Pacific slope.

There are a few breeds of animals in which America leads the world, and the Merino sheep is one of these.

Mr. Crozier, author of "How the Farm Pays," says he feeds his sheep on cut peas and oats in winter. He leaves water in their reach constantly, gives them salt now and then, and once in awhile a little sulphur. In the spring, about the time young pasture is ready to put stock on, he turns his sheep into the wheat field. They do the green wheat good in various ways. He then puts the flock upon pasture. He sows a crop of soft turnips - Yellow Aberdeens or Tankards. In the fall, from the 1st to the 16th of October, he turns the sheep in upon this green crop. He has pastured fifty sheep thus upon two acres, up to the end of December. The only extra feed they had was a little hay in racks built in the turnip field.

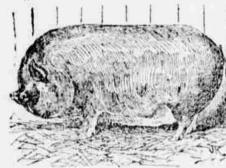
In January be sold the sheep to the butches

for \$9 apiece. They had proviously cost him \$3,50 apiece, being suimals that he had tought in the New York market and taken home to fatten. He considers this pasturing of sheep on turnip patches one of the best ways to bring up poor land. The sheep droppings enrich the roll greatly. Next spring ie sows the same soil in onts, grasses and clover, and it is ready to bring a the crop. The sheep are dipped in strong tobacco water, to which some su phur has been added,

Mr. Crozier is one of the most successful general farmers in the Atlantic states.

Small Black Rogs.

The small Black Suffolk log is a favorite breed in England. The swin the illustration belongs to this blood. The is a winning bog at the fairs, and is troops its breeder as she appears in the engraving. In England when a hog takes a prize this immediately adds to the value of others belonging to the same blood or litter, and they are Lought and sold as breeders.



BLACK SUPPOLE SOW. The points of the Black Suffolks are early maturity, fine flesh and very little waste. The sows produce very large litters, some times as many as fifteen and sixteen. The breed is not much known in the United

"New Agriculture."

This is the name of a good many schemes, some of which are humbugs. Hon. A. N. Cole, of Wellsville, N. Y., gives the title to a large book he has written on the subject of draining lands by the trench system. He claims that there are millions in it, and there may be really something in it. -

The method is to dig deep trenches in the land and put into these tile drains of a peculiar pattern. Then they are covered over. But the rains percolate the soil, the water "as ps' through the tiles. Instead of being carried off as in the ordinary way, it remain stored in the earthen receptacles, as a steady fountain, to be drawn on by the roots of growing crops as they want it. Then there is no drouth, no matter how great the lack of min. By irrigation in the California and the welarger, surer crops are raised than in the eastern and middle sections of the country, he

which the rainfall is derended on for water Mr. Cole's system is explained in his book called "The New Agriculture" He avers that he has raised 1,000 bushels of potatoes from one acre of ground by the trenching drainage plan. His own small farm, he and then falling upon him with his knees, stead of being raised in the usual convex says, was unproductive because of poor soil breaking all of his ribs and crucking in his before he tried the new agriculture. After that be raised large crops. Below are more tioned the especial advantages he claims. By "hard pan" he means the hard clay subsell which underlies so much of our country. The trenching is deep enough to penetrate the hard pan. Mr. Cole's plan is indersed by Professor Roberts, of Cornell university, and by the president of the Elmira Farmers'

The system and the book are worth invest, gating, never losing sight, of course, of the "hard pan" of one's own good common sense and judgment. Don't be carried away with anything, and investigate new things to the bottom before you go into them. The writer of "The New Agriculture" says in support of

1. Cereal crops are increased more than

2. The size, flavor and enhanced production of fruits and vegetables are in proportion as

five to one under the old system. 8. Vegetation of all kinds is rendered abso-

arising from faugoid infection. 4. The ground worked under this new syr main in enormous abundance in the dust.

tem being measurably impervious to frost, 5. It creates a rich, moist and loamy soil

out of the most unpromising hard pan. 6. It prevents the washing of surface soils from hillside farms during heavy rains. 7. Springs are created on the most sterile

billsides. 8. Drouth is effectually guarded against.

Laying Sod to Suit a Hog.

In the spring there is a class of mean farmers who turn their cattle into the read, that their pastures may get a better start. Their cows, leaving the highways, play the mischief with grassy lawns or shrubbery, and occasionally find their way into a garden, destroying everything above ground. When they leave, the industrious hog, who is let out for a little fresh spring food, completes the cattle. destruction of the horned brute. He has a nose for business. He detects the tender bulls with his keen scent as surely as the setter does the quail. He never fails to bring up and devour anything that suits his taste, and be has an appetite that is never satisfied with what be unearths, and he is omnivorous in his habits. One old one, with her nevertiring followers, can destroy more sod, and tear up more gutters and plants in one day than the whole horde is worth.

A learned divine who had cultivated tastes and means to gratify them had, at great expense, tastefully graded and sodded a large yard about his beautiful home. The morning after the work had all been completed be stepped out before breakfast to gratify his eye in beholding what the night before was a thing of beauty and a joy to all passersby. But, alas! to his horror, during that first night the neighbor's enterprising sow and family had been there and turned the nice sod into a disgusting mass. The D.D. did not utter cuss words. He folded his arms peacefully and remarked meekly: "Well, no man ever could lay sod to suit a hog."-Ben: Perley Poore in American Culti-

Lown and Tard Grasses. Don't forget your grassy lawn or door yard this spring. If you have not time for many flowers you certainly have leisure for making a beautiful bright green grass plot

about your house. Seedsmen sell what they call mixed lawn grasses. W. J. Beal, professor of botany and forestry in the Michigan Agricultural college, has struck consternation into the hearts of nurserymen and seedsmen by analyzing the mixtures they send out, neatly labeled and sold for from \$4 to \$5.50 a bushel. He found, without exception, that the compounds contained quantities of weed seeds and plants that were a detriment to a lawn. Some contained eggs of insects. Look out

for them From careful study and experimenting Professor Beal finds the following to be the best wearing lawn grass mixture to plant Sow at the rate of two bushels of Kentucky blue grass, poa pratensis, to two bushels of some small tent grass, known as Rhode Island Bent, Brown Bent or Creeping Bent, or as red top. A few ounces of white clover may be added, if one wishes. As to the sowing Professor Beal writes:

"If not so already, make the soil strong, drain thoroughly, deeply pulverize, harrow and hand rake the surface carefully. In early spring, or in early autumn if not dry,

April is a good menth in which to sow and easily.

creasing the productiveness of our lands, or shake off and can be used again. preserving their present condition by com- If you prefer to dry out your skins before yet three-fourths of all stable manures in this | baled up for shipment. state are wasted, thrown into rivers, etc.- | Never dry out a skin without having it

Co-operative Drainage. Drainage districts are formed in Illinois, salted before being dried out. varying from 10,000 to 40,000 acres in extent, If your skins remain on hand very long fund, according to the drainage required, have the skins vigorously whipped with a The work is done on a large scale, with every stick so often that they shall be wholly cradipossible help from machinery, and much cated from the entire lot of skins, as they farmer could hope to do it unabled and alone, | time. - Leather Review.

Look Out for the Swindler. Here is another trick that needs watching: One sharper agrees to buy a farmer's land, and pays him \$25 to bind the bargain. Another comes along and offers him \$500 more. and refs the promise of it, if the farmer can gent phosphate at \$30 per ton buy off No. 1, who soon comes around and inists on the fulfillment of the contract, but will give up for \$200. This the farmer names to, and pays back the \$25 and the \$200, and the second purchaser never turns up.

Roots For Late Use.

By this time the white and early turning will be pithy and of but little value for feeding. Rutabaga or Swedish turnips keep later, and in pits may be preserved as for use until a fresh bit of grass can be had. It is toward spring that most roots are needed, for toward spring that most roots are needed, for this then that cows and ewes need green food it is then that cows and ewes need green food it does not heat too much, and pour more to stimulate milk production for their young. The - facts should be remembered in decal- lie six or eight weeks. Then out down sucress want pools to plant next season.

Killed by a Muley Bull.

A man named Daniel Boone, supposed to be lineal descendant of the famous planeer, was H. Brown, south of Westport, Mo. He was in the common arrangement is acceptable, a ading the built to water, when the animal little circular flower hed sunk in concave victorsly attracked him, knocking him down form to the tiniest possible central post, inbreast hone: It may be stated, parenthetisally, that the bull had no ring in his nose.

Things to Do and to Know, there are ten lawyers where there should be depth, is a convenient measurement.

1,000 to 2,000 pounds of the best commercial fertifizers to the acre are necessary for market gurdens.

A colt should be halter broke when a week old and when allowed to follow the mether easily managed by a few buckets of watshould be led at her side. A colt thoroughly halter broke before it is weaned is half broken. Feed colts little corn, but plenty of

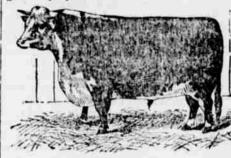
lucy and oats. Some of the last corn lands in Indiana are factly, and gives a picture-sque bit the bottoms of ponds which have been natural grouping of water, rock and varied drained, but in certain of these the working leafage, which is always attractive in itself of the soil on warm days causes an intelerable itching, followed by burning pain in the skin for some days. The cause of this is found lutely free from disease, more especially that to be the minute spicules of fresh water first with flowers and then with foliage, body

Farm & Carden

Hereford Cattle. We have been giving illustrations and de scriptions of the different breeds of cattle, from time to time, that the readers of this column may know what are the standard breeds, and what they are useful for. We skall continue this until all the main strains of blood known have appeared in our agricultural department.

This week we present a picture of a fine Hereford bull. The Hereford cattle get their name from the county in England in which they originated. They are the prize fat beef cattle of England. They and the Devons are the oldest known breeds of domesticated

Their flesh is evenly distributed in streaks of red and white of the fat and lean. They are the nearest solid beef, without waste, of any bovines in existence. Nature seems even to have grudged them legs in her desire to make meat of them. They have been bred to boof for centuries, and the animal in the picture shows the result. There is less waste in them for beef than there is in the Short Horns, They are not great milkers in themselves, but when crossed with our native cows make useful dairy or farm animals. Crossed with Short Horns, they would make very fine general purpose cattle.



The Herefords were introduced into this country half a century or more ago, and they high. are now scattered into most parts of it. Wherever you see a dark red cow with a white face and a white stripe down the back, that cow has Hereford blood. They are patient, good-natured animals, and the steers make valuable oxen, are popular in the west and make a greatly improving cross with the wild Texas cattle. They are one of the best breeds for this purpose. The Herefords are regular show cattle at western exhibitions, and take many prizes. There is really no more valuable beef animal than they. In our illustration the bull's deep brisket descends in a solid weight of beef well nigh to the ground.

How to Take Off a Hide.

In taking off a hide or calfskin never cut skin from the brisket to the tail, and from other as well. the brisket to law; then cut around each less to the hoof. Slit the hind leg from the hoof to the top of the brisket bone. This leaves the bide, or skin, then in the proper shape for are covered an eighth of an inch deep. The tinishing.

draw or fist off the skin without any further

or clover, but only the finest perennial shine upon it, and cover it with salt-rather fine salt being beiter than too coarse salt. Do not roll it up, but let it remain in the salt until you take off another; then place that If the farms of the northwest generally are one upon the other, salting freely as before, to be preserved in their fertility, it will have and so on until you get erough to make quite to be done by clover and by being largely de a pile; then commence another pile in the voted to grass, so that the offal will remain same manner. Do not be afraid to use salt on the farm. It is idle to even think of in- freely; what the skins do not require will

mercial fertilizers. Farms can be kept up to selling them be sure that they are thoroughly their full production by natural agencies, cured with sait before drying them, and then which every prudent man can control. And that they are thoroughly dried before being

salted as described, to preserve it, from moths and other injuries on the hair side which are liable to occur if the skins are not properly

according to the lay of the land. Some of after being deied out, before delivery to the the smaller districts have been completed, tanner, even if sulted, watch them carefully and their success gives confidence to others, to detect any indications of moths or worms Farmers owning these lands make a common on the hair side, and if any are discovered more cheaply and effectively than any often work serious injury in a very short

> Formula for Cotton Compost. Dr. Charles W. Dabney, of the North Caro-

lina experiment station, gives the following formula for the best home made cotton fertilizer:

One ton 2000 Or, if a more concentrated manure is de-

sired, use 200 pounds of acid phesphate and 400 pounds of kainite. Fut down, best under shelter, or so

that the beap will not be leached, a layer of manure or earth, a layer of cotton seed well scaled in a solution of kainite, a layer of acid phosphate, maunre or earth again, etc. The heap should be thoroughly moist, but not water in the top of it if it does. Let the heap the layers and chop together. Can use, according to desire, 500 to 2,000 pounds per

Sunken Flower Beds.

In small villa gardens, where any variety mound, has a very good effect. For the little pool (if nothing better offers a small tub, or a piece sawn off the end of an old cask, and well sunk in the ground, answers excellentlyof any size that may be liked * a couple of The fown Register informs farmers that feet across, and about ten inches or a feet in

> With a little care the plants, and any plants turesque rock like pieces of stone, or burr, may be arranged around this, so as to give the appearance of a natural eistern; the small quantity of water is useful as being always at hand, warmed, and aired for special needs; whilst the constant emptying and refilling, keeps the tiny pool in order.

The slightly sunk position, with its most air and protection from drying draughts over the roots appears to suit many plants put and with care it is always except in the date

of winter, bright with some flowers. Crocuses and hyacinths of different kin is stonges which once grew in the pend and re- well among the stones; frises, double valids in most effective and permanent plant), hardy

anunculi, low damask ross bushes, campanulas, sweet williams, and endless old favorites, according to taste, succeed in date of flowering; and their leafage, bending over the pool, or standing up in rich luxuriance, is always ornamental.

As the brown tint of the withering leaves of the bulbs is not an eyesore amongst the few morsels of rock, they may be allowed to pass quietly away, and any bright temporary flower planted by the side re-enlivens the spot. But however it may be arranged, the little sunk bed is usually a favorite spot with visitors, and a great convenience to its amateur owners. - London Gardeners' Chronicle.

Farm Animals in the United States. The last United States agricultural report contains a list of the farm animals of the

The interest in horse breeding is increasing, and a small number of horses begins to be the breeds most imported. The report says there is little need of new blood in thoroughbred or racing stock. The number of borses in the country, in spite of the march of NATIONAL CITY BANK steam, electrical and other new motors, has increased by over 500,000. Cows have increased \$50,606 over last year. The increase in other cattle is still larger. The sheep industry has suffered greatly, and is now passing through a period of deep depression. Sheep have decreased 2,000,000. Swine have increased nearly 1,000,000. All farm ani mals, except sheep, have increased in num

All farm animals have decreased in value The decline has been going on three years. Horses and mules have gone down 3 per cent., cattle 8 per cents, sheep 11 per cent., hogs 15 per cent. In two years, although all suit purchasers. farm animals, except sheep, have increased U.S. Revenue Stamps of all denominations constant in number, their aggregate value has gons by un hand and for sale. down over \$100,000,000. Still, it is to be United States Bonds, Local Securities, Gold and Süver remembered that the real value, the animals bought and soid. themselves, with their meat, hides, bone and Banking hours from ? A. M. to 4 P. M. muscle are all there, just as much as they ever were, and their services to man go just as far as if their money price was twice as

Crops at This Date.

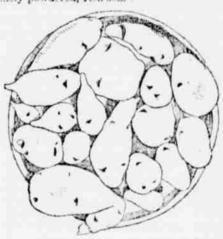
The winter wheat crop still continues, generally, in a favorable condition; the usual March freezing and thawing has not developed any wide spread or serious damare. Ground generally in good condition. Cotton crop still very largely in basels of producers. Winter packing season over. Decrease in weight and quality of hogs.

Potatoes from Seed.

We have mentioned that it would be an interesting experiment for the farm boys and girls to save some of the seed in a potato ball, when they ripen in the fall, and plant them, when they ripen in the fall, and plant them, and see the kinds of potato that will be pro-duced. These will be different from the the throat crosswise in the least. Slit the parent potatoes, and different from each

The seed should be sown in boxes in the the window, or under glass. The best way is up directly over the gambrel, and the for- to put them in flower pets, scattering them ward legs in the front, directly over the knee, hightly and thinly upon rich soil. Sprinkle finely pulverized earth upon them till they seeds are so light and fine that watering the earth in the ordinary way will wash the eovcutting them, then, commencing at the head, vering off them. The best way, therefore, to water them is to plugge the pot in which they use of the knife, thereby avoiding the holes are planted into a vessel filled with water till sow, without any wheat or oats, three or four and cuts that almost spoil so many calishins. it comes nearly to the top of the pot. Water bushe's to the acre of June grass or red top. Some farmers us a windless to draw off the will thus soak through the porous eartheneither one or a mixture of both in any pro- dairy skins, and others use a horse; but one ware to moisten the soil. When the earth in or two men can do it a great deal more qui kly the pot becomes damp the seeds have had a the pot becomes damp the seeds have had a sufficient drink. This is to be done when they are first planted. Cover each pot with a sale and adjoining counties, and it has Appelled the of class, set it in the window, and leave and suppressed data superior Courts. lawn grass. Never mix any timothy, red clover, mendow fescus or other large grass the floor in a cool place, where the san cannot place of glass, set it in the window, and leave it until the seeds sprout. Then raise the glass gradually, the first day a little, the next a ittle more, and then take it of altogether.

The plants are the smallest things at first But as they become stronger and the danger of frost is gone, set them out in a warm, finely powdered, rich soil.



The tiny potato plants must be cultivated just as ordinary ones are. By the fall of the first year, when digging time comes, the tubers will look much as they do in the parture. Gather them carefully, keep them over, and the second spring plant them just as you would ordinary potatoes. You may originate a new variety of potato that will prove valuable to you. All new potatoes are

thus raised. The little plants should be thinned out in the pots if there is danger of their crowding one another. When you set them into the ground plant them one foot apart, rows three et apart. You must watch them at first and water them if they seem too dry. But over water a plant while the sun is shir ing upon it. Do that in the morning or even

If you have no potato ball seed, cut this out nd jeste it in your some book where you di not forget it, and save some polato sevthe fall, ready to begin on next spring.

Things to Do and to Know. The best of all ways to prevent the had

flects of drouth is per-intent cultivation. Cotton seed ernshed or ground into meal nakes a better fertilizer than the whole seeds. In selecting broad saws choose those with sur, wide bodies and thirteen or fourteen

If the fences are out of repair, they should strengthened up without delay. It pays keep the entile out of the corn.

ats, the more the better.

Southern farmers are substituting more nd more largely tobacco for cotton as a taple of culture. It pages several hundred per cent. better.

There are no longer any new lands for cab tle ranges in the west. Ranchmen must now to South America, to Alaska and to the lands along the Pacific coast. The demand for young men to take charge

greameries at the south is so great that the isosoppi agricultural college is forming a has for special instruction in this industry.

To kill lice on cattle one good way is to wash the animals in tobacco water. Boiling water poured over any kind of tobacco, or over tobacco stems, will make the fluid. To kill their eggs and all apply twice.

An Obio farmer has brutally disgraced the whole profession. He had 200 sheep when winter set in, and plenty of grain and folder, but the other day an agent of the Humane selety found seventy-one of the sheep dead, forty being piled in the basement of one barn and twenty-three in another, and scattered about the place. They had all starved to

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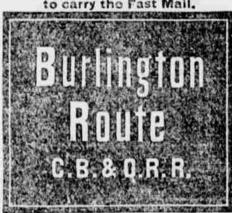
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